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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

8 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: U.S. Policy Toward Berlin.

1. In a memorandum for the National Security Council dated 7 January 1955, subject as above, the Executive Secretary, National Security Council, forwarded for consideration by the National Security Council an Operations Coordinating Board recommendation with respect to paragraph 9 of NSC 5404/1 which stated that ". . . the NSC give consideration to courses of action which might be appropriate at this time, in the absence of . . . consultation [with France and the United Kingdom], to deal with a blockade [of Berlin] imposed by the Soviets or the East Germans or to deal with increased harassment . . . seriously impeding Western access to Berlin . . ."
2. On 12 January 1955 the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended that you concur in the above recommendation by the Operations Coordinating Board, and stated that you would be advised of proposed courses of action after the Joint Chiefs of Staff had reviewed U. S. unilateral contingency plans being prepared by USCINCEUR to deal with a blockade of Berlin, if imposed by the Soviets or the East Germans, and for meeting local reprisals and harassing actions.
3. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recently reviewed these plans and consider that they provide for adequate implementation, at this time, of those military aspects of U.S. Policy Toward Berlin concerning U.S. unilateral courses of action dealing with a blockade, if imposed by the Soviets or the East Germans, and for meeting local reprisals and harassing actions.

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Authority MN 88-217*2
By JL NLE Date 8/12/88

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4. In view of the above, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that no further action be taken at this time by the National Security Council with respect to the military aspects of the recommendation by the Operations Coordinating Board set forth in paragraph 1 above.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

ARTHUR RADFORD,
Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff



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